

ULVERSTON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

For the Year 1950.



# ULVERSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## *Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1950.*

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Ulverston Rural  
District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1950.

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	127,485
Population	...	...	...	16,730
Number of inhabited houses			...	5,314
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£78,994
Amount produced by a penny rate				£304.6.6

### VITAL STATISTICS.

#### BIRTHS.

Two hundred and thirty-two births, 125 male and 107 female were registered during the year, giving a birth rate of 15.1 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 14.0 per 1,000 in 1949. Seven of the births were of illegitimate children.

#### STILLBIRTHS.

Seven babies were stillborn during the year giving a still-birth rate of 29 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

#### DEATHS.

Two hundred and twenty-eight deaths, 121 male and 107 female, were registered during the year, giving a crude death rate of 13.6 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 15.2 per 1,000 in 1949. The adjusted death rate after correction for sex and age distribution is 11.1 per 1,000.

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

Four deaths of infants under one year of age occurred. The sexes, ages and causes of death were :—

Male.	2 weeks.	Meningocele.
Female.	6 months.	Congenital heart disease.
Male.	8 hours.	Intracranial haemorrhage. Difficult labour.
Female.	1 month.	Cardiac failure resulting from atelectasis.

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY :—Nil

#### DEATHS FROM DIARRHOEA AND ENTERITIS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE :—Nil.



## CAUSES OF DEATH.

The table below shows the causes of death of Rural District residents in 1950.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Male.	Female.	Total
1	Respiratory tuberculosis	...	...	4	—	4
2	Other tuberculosis	...	...	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases			—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	3	1	4
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung and bronchus			1	—	1
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	4	4
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms			16	7	23
15	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	...	...	1	—	1
16	Diabetes	...	...	1	2	3
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system			14	21	35
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	20	11	31
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	—	1
20	Other heart disease	...	...	25	27	52
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	4	1	5
22	Influenza	...	...	—	2	2
23	Pneumonia	...	...	1	8	9
24	Bronchitis	...	...	3	1	4
25	Other diseases of respiratory system			2	—	2
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	4	—	4
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	4	2	6
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	4	—	4
30	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	...	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	1	1	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases			9	15	24
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	2	3	5
34	All other accidents	...	...	2	3	5
35	Suicide	...	...	—	1	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—	—
				121	107	228

The chief causes of death of Rural District residents in 1950 as shown by the above table were :— Heart Disease 89, Vascular Lesions of nervous system 35, and Cancer 33.

CANCER.

Brief particulars of the 33 deaths from this disease are shown below :—

Site.				Male.	Female.	Total.
Stomach	...	...	...	3	1	4
Breast	...	...	...	—	4	4
Rectum	...	...	...	3	1	4
Liver	...	...	...	—	3	3
Colon	...	...	...	3	1	4
All other sites	...	...	...	10	4	14
				19	14	33

The age distribution of deaths in 1950 is shown below :—

	-1	1-	5-	10-	20-	30-	40-	50-	60-	65-	70-	75-	80-	85-	90-	Ttl
M	2	2	1	2	3	2	6	8	11	19	24	19	14	5	3	121
F.	2	1	0	1	1	2	6	5	7	14	19	14	17	12	6	107
Ttl	4	3	1	3	4	4	12	13	18	33	43	33	31	17	9	228

72.8 per cent of deaths occurred in persons of 65 and over.

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 148 smaller towns and the Ulverston Rural District.

Year	England and Wales.		148 Smaller Towns. 25—50,000 population.		Ulv. Rural District.	
	Births	Deaths.	Births	Deaths.	Births	Deaths.
1946...	19.1	11.5	21.3	11.7	16.6	13.6
1947...	20.5	12.0	22.2	11.9	16.9	14.3
1948...	17.9	10.8	19.2	10.7	16.4	12.7
1949...	16.7	11.7	18.0	11.6	14.0	15.2
1950...	15.8	11.6	16.7	11.6	15.1	11.1

NOTE. The death rates for the Ulverston Rural District quoted in the above table for the years 1946-1949 inclusive are the crude death rates. The rate quoted for 1950 is the adjusted death rate after correction for age and sex distribution. This figure is more comparable with the rates quoted for England and Wales and for 148 smaller towns.

The birth rates quoted are adjusted birth rates in all cases.

General Provision of Health Services.

PERSONNEL.

Medical Officer of Health:—A. Dodd, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,  
(to 28th February, 1950). L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health:—J. L. Wild, M.A., M.B., B. Chir.  
(from 1st April, 1950). M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Other Appointments held :— Medical Officer of Health—Ulverston Urban District, Dalton-in-Furness Urban District—Grange-over-Sands Urban District.

Divisional Medical Officer: Health Division No. 1, Lancashire County Council.



The following table shows the numbers of dwellinghouses and numbers of the population supplied with water from public mains and from private sources in the parishes of the Rural District at the end of 1950. .

TOWNSHIPS.	From Public Mains				From Private Wells and Springs, etc.	
	Direct to houses.		By means of stand-pipes.			
	No. of dwelling-houses.	No. of population.	No. of dwelling-houses.	No. of population.	No. of dwelling-houses.	No. of population.
Aldingham .....	271	917	—	—	5	18
Allithwaite Lower ...	429	1154	—	—	2	5
Allithwaite Upper ...	210	715	—	—	10	36
Angerton .....	—	—	—	—	5	23
Blawith .....	—	—	—	—	37	117
Broughton East .....	27	103	—	—	25	109
Broughton West ....	262	820	—	—	39	137
Cartmel Fell .....	18	58	—	—	97	264
Claife .....	142	380	—	—	31	119
Colton .....	16	71	—	—	302	1057
Coniston .....	267	825	32	88	43	165
Dunnerdale, etc. ...	—	—	—	—	61	190
Egton-with-Newland	110	324	—	—	162	556
Haverthwaite .....	191	550	—	—	54	266
Hawkshead .....	177	465	—	—	19	81
Holker Lower .....	396	1305	—	—	46	183
Holker Upper .....	8	38	—	—	40	179
Kirkby Ireleth ....	386	1180	—	—	41	197
Lowick .....	34	115	—	—	44	171
Mansriggs .....	1	5	—	—	10	50
Osmotherley .....	39	66	—	—	46	156
Pennington .....	369	1529	—	—	8	33
Satterthwaite .....	—	—	—	—	Private Main.	
Skelwith .....	—	—	—	—	106	336
Staveley .....	122	327	—	—	91	254
Subberthwaite .....	9	30	—	—	5	18
Torver .....	—	—	—	—	15	47
Urswick .....	359	1086	—	—	60	196
					5	19

## Drainage and Sewerage.

Particulars of existing methods of disposal of sewage in the various townships of the Rural District are given below :

Township.	Village.	Method of Disposal.
Aldingham ...	...Leece ...	...Sewage tank and land irrigation.
	Gleaston ...	...Sewage tank.
	Scales ...	...Two sewage tanks with overflows to land.
	Baycliffe ...	...Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
Allithwaite Lower, Allithwaite		...Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters— outfall to sea.
	Cartmel ...	...Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters— outfall to River Eea.
Allithwaite Upper, Lindale		...Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters— outfall to River Winster.
	Newton ...	...Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters— outfall to stream.
Broughton East...	Field Broughton...	Sewage tank.
Broughton West, Broughton-in-Furness		...Sewage tank with overflow to the tidal waters of the River Duddon.
	Foxfield ...	...Tidal waters of the River Duddon.
Claife ...	...Near Sawrey	...Sewage tanks.
	Far Sawrey	...Two sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
	Colthouse	...Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
Colton ...	...Bouth ...	...Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
	Oxenpark	...Sewage tank with overflow to land.
Coniston ...	...Coniston	...Five large sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
Egton ...	...Greenodd	...Tidal waters of Morecambe Bay.
	Pennybridge	...Sewage tank.
Haverthwaite	...Haverthwaite	...Sewage tank with overflow to river.
	Backbarrow	...Sewage tank with overflow to River Leven.
Hawkshead	...Hawkshead	...Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Outgate ...	...Two sewage tanks with outfall to land and stream.
	Hannakin	...Sewage tank with outfall to stream.



## Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows the numbers of cases of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Rural District during the five years 1945-1949 compared with the numbers in 1950.

Disease	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950		
						No. of Cases	Removed to Hospital	No. of D'ths
Scarlet Fever	13	10	10	37	23	46	30	—
Measles	166	2	84	186	12	237	2	—
Whooping Cough	16	44	18	50	30	42	—	—
Pneumonia	14	16	17	15	12	7	—	—
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	1	5	5	3	3	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	—
Para-typhoid Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Malaria	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	8	—	2	—	—	—
Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	216	77	145	298	83	336	32	—

Measles was prevalent throughout the southern part of the Rural District during March and April. The Northern part of the district escaped with a minimum number of cases.

The single case of food poisoning occurred in a farm worker and was due to the organism *Salmonella Typhimurium*. It was due either to the consumption of duck eggs or to defective personal hygiene but proof either way was not obtainable.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

The tuberculosis service in the Ulverston Rural District is administered by the Regional Hospital Board, the County Council and the Sanitary Authority. The Hospital Board is responsible for treatment, the County Council for care and after-care and the Sanitary Authority for prevention. A tuberculosis health visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council. The Dispensary at Ulverston is attended by the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for the district and a Tuberculosis Health Visitor. Extensive facilities for the investigation and treatment of tuberculosis are available at High Carley Sanatorium.



The following table shows the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified and deaths from the disease in the Rural District in 1950.

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
Years		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—	.....	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5—	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—	.....	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
15—	....	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—	.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	.....	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—	.....	3	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
45—	.....	2	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
55—	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—	....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
75 and upwards		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	9	4	5	3	3	0	1	0

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Rural District Residents during the past twelve years.

Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1939	6	6	3	8	4	3	—	1
1940	12	3	5	2	3	3	2	—
1941	11	11	3	4	2	5	—	—
1942	14	4	2	—	2	—	—	1
1943	11	14	3	5	3	3	1	—
1944	12	13	5	4	4	6	1	—
1945	5	5	5	7	1	3	—	—
1946	9	3	2	2	2	1	1	1
1947	6	8	6	7	1	2	—	—
1948	9	10	5	3	1	—	—	2
1949	11	6	5	6	1	2	—	—
1950	9	4	5	3	3	—	1	—

In conclusion I thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Rural District Council, and, in particular, the Sanitary Inspectors, for courtesy and help.

The report of the Sanitary Inspectors is appended.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD,

Medical Officer of Health

# Sanitary Inspectors' Report, for the Year Ended 31st December, 1950.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ulverston Rural  
District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The routine inspectoral duties as prescribed by statute were resumed in August, 1950, on the return to work following prolonged sickness of Mr. Bingham.

## HOUSING.

Whilst the building of new Council houses throughout the Rural Area proceeded well during the year, in the region of 81 families being rehoused, the most vital need still is, and for many years to come will remain, more houses. The new houses which have been provided have been allocated mainly to overcrowded families where young couples with children have been living with in-laws. Such re-housing has in our opinion rightly been given priority, but little or no attention has yet been given to the question of replacing houses which are totally unfit for occupation. There are 67 properties of this type scattered throughout the area, which were the subject of legal action under the Housing Act before the war, and the making of clearance orders in respect of them remains in abeyance. In addition, the Rural Housing Survey has revealed that similar action will be required at some future date in the case of at least 500 more properties.

The work of enforcing the provisions of the Housing Acts to maintain properties in a reasonable state of repair is most difficult at the present time, as the majority of houses requiring major repairs are those with rentals varying from three to six shillings per week. The cost to owners even of urgent sanitary repairs, such as repairing a leaking roof or defective drains renders such properties not only valueless but a definite liability.

Whilst sufficient homes to rehouse families of the working classes are a fundamental necessity it must be borne in mind that the rentals of Council houses are prohibitive to many people. It has been our experience during the year that several families obviously in need of rehousing have not even made application for tenancies and we have no doubt that the rental problem is the sole reason.

## FARMS AND DAIRIES.

Since the responsibility for clean milk production was transferred from Local Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in October, 1949, we are of the opinion that less supervision is being given now than was exercised in the past, resulting in a general lowering of the standard of clean milk production. Furthermore, as the Council is still responsible for certain matters appertaining to farm buildings (e.g. drainage) much overlapping of official visits is occurring. For example, where in the past the Local Authority only was concerned, present administra-



tion admits specialised officers such as Milk Production Officer, Water Supplies Officer, Land Drainage Officer, etc. The result is that no one official can deal with the many aspects of milk production and a state of uncertainty and frustration persists.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

The public water supplies throughout the area have been systematically sampled during the year. The results have varied greatly according to the season, but where repeated unsatisfactory results have been obtained, topographical surveys of the gathering grounds have been carried out and recommendations made to the Public Health Committee.

## CONVERSION OF EARTH-CLOSETS AND PAILS.

Wherever sewerage and water under pressure are available it is our practice to require the substitution of earth closets by water closets. Such action has been taken in several instances during the year, and most of the remaining earth closets exist either at properties which are not suitably served by water and drainage or at properties which are due to be demolished at some time in the foreseeable future. In the latter case the expenditure can be regarded as unreasonable. In the hamlet of Lowwood the conversion of twelve pails to water closets is in progress and this work can be regarded as a major sanitary improvement.

## RODENT CONTROL.

The work of rodent control has continued smoothly throughout the year.

All the Council's eleven refuse tips have been systematically and effectively treated on four different occasions together with the two treatments of the sewers, required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

In addition, advice has been readily given and action taken, to all complaints in private houses and business premises.

The total number of premises treated during the year was 164 and the estimated kill in the region of 2,500.

## SHOPS ACTS, 1937 and 1950

On behalf of the County Medical Officer of Health the routine inspection of all shops in the Rural Area has been continued during the year.

Only minor infringements of the Acts were found and in all cases such infringements were rectified on informal action.

## REFUSE CONTROL.

The refuse collection service has continued smoothly throughout the year.

The present system provides for a fortnightly collection of bins and a three monthly collection of earth closets throughout most of the Council's extensive area of 128,000 acres.

On the whole few complaints regarding the service have been received. These were made either during the disorganisation of the service at holiday times or during the extremes of weather when certain villages could not be reached owing to ice and snow.

We are of the opinion that the service has now reached its maximum efficiency due regard being had to the transport available. The present demand for a more frequent service (e.g. weekly) is small but if at some future time the Council desires this, extra transport will of course be needed.

## CARAVAN DWELLINGS.

Since the war (and probably arising from it) the idea of caravan holidays has grown tremendously and this fact has undoubtedly troubled many of the local residents who object to their presence. We are of the opinion, however, that such a view is a very one-sided one and, whilst we are not endeavouring to plead the cause of the caravan holiday-maker, his point of view should be considered. The desire of the town dweller with children who owns a caravan and wishes to spend two or three weeks holiday in this district can be well understood. Such a holiday can be had at little expense compared with hotel charges, and for the children there are few irksome restrictions. Providing the occupants behave themselves properly and cause no nuisance to other people we see no reason why such people should be prevented from such a holiday. Furthermore under present legislation which is rather too involved to be discussed in this report it is very difficult to prevent them so doing.

It must be agreed however that steps should be taken to bring in new legislation to control the numbers of caravan dwellers, if the present position worsens, i.e. if considerably more caravans are stationed in the district than at present. With the exception of the southern part of the Coast Road to Barrow it can hardly be said that the situation is out of hand. With regards to the Coast Road sites we are of the opinion that the problem here is one of eyesore rather than a public health menace, and should, therefore, be the concern of the local Planning Authority.

It has been suggested that individual sites could be wiped out by providing communal sites equipped with mains water supply and drainage, but whilst this would no doubt meet the requirements of a modern planning enthusiast we doubt whether the provision of such sites would meet the needs of the general type of caravan holidaymaker with whom we have to deal. He is generally a person who prefers to have his holiday in peace and quiet.



## STATISTICS

### GENERAL.

No. of premises etc. visited .....	462
No. of nuisances discovered .....	118
No. of nuisances abated on informal notice ...	84
No. of nuisances abated on Statutory notice	10
No. of notices outstanding at year end .....	24

### MILK AND DAIRIES (Sampling for B. Tuberculosis).

No. of school milk samples taken .....	46
No. of milk samples taken from retailers in the area .....	173
Results :— Positive .....	2
Negative .....	217

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of cases notified .....	41
No. of visits concerned .....	41
No. of premises disinfected.....	38

### VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Two cases of verminous premises were found  
and effectively dealt with by disinfestation 2

### WATER SAMPLES.

No. of water samples taken .....	48
Public .....	16
Private .....	32

### MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS.

Factories .....	59
Bakehouses .....	22
Shops .....	114
Food Preparing Premises .....	57
Butchers Shops .....	11
Licensed Camping Sites.....	15
Mussel Layings .....	6
Ice Cream Premises .....	29

We are, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

H. E. BINGHAM,

H. C. CLAYDON,

Sanitary Inspectors.







